GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:421
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2003
DECLINE IN PASSENGER FREIGHT EARNINGS OF EASTERN RAILWAYS
LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a sharp drop in the passenger/freight earnings of Eastern Railways after its bifurcation;

(b) if so, the details of earnings of Eastern Railways during the said period with data regarding earnings for the corresponding period last year;

(c) whether the expenditure of Eastern Railways is at a higher rate in comparison to its earnings in the said period;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to overcome the problems ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a) & (b): Eastern Railway`s earnings for the period before and after operation of new zones with effect from 01.10.2002 are not comparable as the number of Divisions are not the same. However, passenger and freight earnings on originating basis of Eastern Railway with revised jurisdiction for the period from October, 2002 to December, 2002 show an improvement as compared to the corresponding months of the year 2001 for the same jurisdiction.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. However, the expenditure has been at a higher rate than the earnings of Eastern Railway even before the operation of new zones. This has been due to the fact that revenue generated by Eastern Railway was not enough to meet the entire expenditure on account of Ordinary Working Expenses, Appropriation to various funds and meeting dividend liability.

(e): Although earnings on originating basis for revised jurisdiction have shown an improvement, the following steps are taken/proposed to be taken

(i) to further increase the earnings:-

1. Ticket checking has been intensified.

2. Marketing efforts have been rejuvenated to attract more high rated traffic.

3. Additional coaches have been added, wherever required, to cater to the long distance passengers.

4. More number of passenger reservation windows and additional booking counters have been opened.

5. Introduction of new trains, extension of train services and increase in frequency.

(ii) to reduce the expenditure:-

1. Reduction in lease/Wagon hire charges.

2. Reduction in consumption of fuel and material cost.

3. Man Power Planning.